THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted in retail trade except in single brand product retailing.

(b) Does not arise.

FDI in North Eastern region

626. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Foreign Direct Investment in Industry Sector in the country;

(b) what are the reasons for low FDI in North Eastern Region particularly in Sikkim; and

(c) the necessary steps taken by Government to attract more investment in NER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) As per extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is allowed under the automatic route in the manufacturing sector subject to the sectoral guidelines. FDI inflows in the manufacturing sector during April, 2000 to December, 2007 were US $ 19,038 million and during the same period inflows in the manufacturing sector in the North Eastern Region were US $ 1.44 million.

(b) and (c) Government has put in place a liberal, transparent and investor-friendly policy for FDI. Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions, including choice of location, are taken by the entrepreneurs based on techno-economic and commercial considerations. Government has announced the 'North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007' with effect from 1.4.2007, under which a package of fiscal incentives and other concessions has been notified for the North East Region.

Export of rice

†627. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of rice was banned in October, 2007 in view of the crisis of food supply in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this ban has been lifted; and

(d) if so, when this ban was lifted and the quantum of rice exported during the first nine months upto December in the year 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The export of non-basmati rice was banned in October, 2007 with a view to ensure procurement towards building of buffer stocks for the Public Distribution System.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The ban on export of non-basmati rice was lifted on 31.10.2007 and export permitted subject to a minimum export price of US $ 425 per tonne F.O.B. This was subsequently raised to US $ 500 per tonne F.O.B. on 27.12.2007. The details of rice exports during April, to October, 2007 are as follows:

Qty. MTs. Value: Rs. Lakhs

Year	Basmati Rice		Non Basmati Rice	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2007-08 (April to October, 2007	567335	168777	3187526	375984

Source: DGCI&S (Provisional data)

Defaulters under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme

†628. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has implemented Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme to promote export over the years;

(b) if so, whether exporters have a certain export obligations under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that several exporters have not fulfilled their export obligation inspite of getting benefit under the above scheme; and

(e) if so, the number of such defaulters during the years 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The scheme was introduced in the Import and Export Policy 1990-93 and is being implemented since 1.4.1990.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The SSI Units and Agro Units are required to fulfil export obligation by export of goods equivalent to 6 times of duty saved amount and others equivalent to 8 times of duty saved amount within a specified period of 8 to 12 years from the Authorization Issue-date.

(d) and (e) The total number of authorization (licenses) issued and number of exporters who defaulted in making requisite exports within the timeframe granted for the purpose during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as under:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.